Essay Outline

I. Introduction: the history of basketball didn’t only change the society of basketball, but society itself. The world has changed from the birth of basketball with Dr. James Naismith, to racism affecting players in college.

1. Thesis Question Sample: How did basketball change America?

II. birth of basketall: The First basketball type game may have been played by the early Olmec people of ancient Mexico as early as 500 years go. The Aztec, and Mayan cultures also had a game similar to basketball, only instead of a rubber ball they used the decapitated skulls of their conquered foes. The First true basketball game as we know it was on January 20th, 1892 in Springfield, Massachusetts. Canadian Doctor James Naismith invented the game for the YMCA to play during the winter months. Naismith wrote simple rules for the game, and nailed up two peach baskets for hoops, most of original Naismith rules are still in place today. Some of the rules have changed a bit, and new rules have been added since then, such as in the original game bouncing the ball was prohibited. Of the 13 rules, nine have been modified and kept in the modern game of basketball, the rest have been disregarded. The First game consisted of 18 players, or nine to a team which was standard to the baseball teams of the day. Since Naismith or the YMCA didn’t have the money to design a new ball they used a soccer ball. The concept of the game must have been foreign to the players as the game was played for 30 minutes and the final score was 1-0. Halfway though the game however William R. Chase made the ball go into the peach basket, and thus became the first player to ever score in a basketball game. It was during this game that someone suggested a name for this new sport, Basketball.

III. march **MADNESS**: During March Madness in 1996 a serious risk was taken to change society and shocked the whole United States. Texas Western University was playing against Kentucky for the Championship. It all started during March Madness when both teams met to play on March 19, 1996. For the first time in NCAA history, the head coach for Texas Western started the first black starting five. Until that moment, at the height of the civil-rights era, no major-college team had ever started five blacks in an NCAA championship game. Not only did they start five colored individuals to change society, but they also made a statement and won the NCAA national championship.

IV. NBA: According to historical records, the National Basketball League and the Basketball Association of America were responsible for the invention of the NBA. One of the most important names among the members of those two pioneer basketball organizations was Walter A. Brown. In 1946, he was highly influential in establishing the BAA. Likewise, he is one of the individuals credited for merging the BAA and the National Basketball League, which eventually led to the start of the NBA. Aside from the NBA, he was also credited for establishing the Celtics franchise some time in 1945.

V. Conclusion: As you can see basketball goes way back into the past. Basketball wouldn’t be what is it today if the coach from Texas Western University didn’t take risks to start the first black starting five. We wouldn’t have much of an NBA if it was not created by Walter A. Brown. Basketball wouldn’t even be a sport if it wasn’t for Dr. James Naismith. Its obvious NBA is famous in the World, but it also changed society and made the U.S. a better place.